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not be passed by without protest. He says "under the Theocracy the violation of the Sabbath was high-treason and was avenged by death." Sir Thomas unquestionably meant to be truthful. The account of the laws of the province and the operations of the government quoted from his work is as a whole intelligent and accurate. It is important, therefore, to note this exception, which can doubtless be traced to Cotton's proposed *Abstract of the Lawes of New England*.

ANDREW McFARLAND DAVIS.

Leaders of Public Opinion in Ireland. By WILLIAM EDWARD HARTPOLE LECKY. (New York and London : Longmans, Green, and Company. 1903. Pp. xxi, 321; x, 358.)

THIS work in its original form, as we learn from the preface of the new revision, was first published anonymously in 1861, when the author was but twenty-two years old. The work was a failure on the market, only about thirty copies being sold. In 1871 the author republished his biographies over his own name, with an introduction on Irish affairs. This edition, coming in the midst of the exciting discussions on the Irish question that followed the Fenian outbreak of 1867, the Irish Land Act, and the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish church in 1870, attracted more attention ; but the volume received but little attention from the reading public until the conversion of Mr. Gladstone to Home Rule a few years later. Mr. Gladstone appealed to Mr. Lecky's work as a justification of his policy. He made political use of Mr. Lecky's contention that a distinct national feeling lay at the base of Irish discontent ; that no government "will ever permanently command the affection and loyalty of the Irish people which is not in some degree national, which is not administered in a great measure by Irishmen and through Irish institutions." But Mr. Lecky was by no means a believer in Gladstone's Home Rule policy. Because he had condemned the Union of 1801 it did not follow that he favored its repeal in 1880. He held that a Parliament like that of 1801, representing the loyalty and landed property of the island, was quite unlike one representing an extreme democracy, or the Irish Land League, which was "certain to be guided by men who had long made it their task to stimulate in every form the most passionate hatred of the British Empire and who would probably begin their legislation by the plunder of the very classes of which Grattan's Parliament mainly consisted."

In his Irish policy Mr. Lecky favored giving Ireland "the greatest amount of self-government that is compatible with the unity and security of the Empire." He was stoutly opposed to the Irish Nationalists and their programme, and he therefore rejected the creation of a dependent Irish Parliament ; much more would he oppose the creation of an independent one. He favored the enlargement of local government for Ireland, "directed by the loyal and property classes." But he held that the danger of an independent or subordinate Parliament, which seemed great in 1871, had become incomparably greater at the time of

Mr. Gladstone's proposals, "since the direction of Irish politics," as Mr. Lecky expresses it, "has passed into the hands of men who have proved their disloyalty to the Crown and their hatred of the Empire."

The party use made by Mr. Gladstone and the Home Rulers of Mr. Lecky's essays gave his volume a sudden and unexpected popularity. It was, in a measure, this use of his work that made the author desirous of revising it. He therefore, a short time before his death, revised, enlarged, and in considerable measure rewrote these notable biographical studies, to bring his work into harmony with his later knowledge and his matured opinions. Furthermore, the edition of 1871 was written without an examination of the great manuscript collections of confidential government correspondence that exist in London and Dublin. Mr. Lecky's *History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century* was largely based on these materials and deals with the same period as most of these biographical studies. This investigation materially modified his earlier judgments.

The edition of 1871, of one volume, which has long been out of print, contained studies on Swift, Flood, Grattan, and O'Connell. The new edition, of two finely-printed volumes, does not contain the sketch of Swift, which has been transferred to the popular edition of Swift's works, edited by Mr. Temple Scott. It is replaced by a valuable introductory sketch of early phases of Irish history since the Revolution. Conditions in Ireland under William and Anne, the conditions and causes of Irish Jacobitism, and the penal laws against Roman Catholics in the first part of the eighteenth century, are here briefly but forcibly presented. This study, and the essay relating to Irish struggles under Grattan and the controversies relating to the union, are engaging and illuminating. Notice is taken of the Fitzwilliam controversy. Lord Rosebery's last monograph on Pitt, and Edward Gibson, Lord Ashbourne's *Pitt: Some Chapters of his Life and Times*, in which they defend Pitt in his conduct toward Fitzwilliam, leave Mr. Lecky unconvinced; but he discusses the points these authors have raised and gives the reader the benefit of both sides of the controversy.

About fifty pages of the new edition are devoted to the study of Flood, more than two hundred to the life and times of Grattan. The new material, as Mr. Lecky states, does not affect the career of Grattan; but new light has been thrown on the treatment of the Catholic question and on the views of the English and Irish governments. The biographies of Flood and Grattan are issued with recognition of this new material. To the study of O'Connell and his times the whole of the second volume is devoted. The author thus gives more three hundred pages to a study that his second edition disposed of in less than a hundred. The volume is like a history of Ireland during the first half of the nineteenth century. The new materials in the study of O'Connell which Mr. Lecky has brought into use are the two large volumes of O'Connell's *Correspondence* edited by W. J. Fitzpatrick, Miss Cusack's

Life of Daniel O'Connell, and Sir Gavan Duffy's series of works describing the relations of O'Connell to the Young Ireland party.

Those who have been students of Irish history and of the historic relations between Ireland and England during the last two centuries have been grateful to Mr. Lecky for his extensive and masterful work in this field. They have now cause for further gratitude that he saw fit to revise and enlarge and put within the reach of our libraries and of intelligent readers these useful and attractive studies on the great Irish leaders.

JAMES A. WOODBURN.

The Aaron Burr Conspiracy. A History largely from Original and hitherto Unused Sources. By WALTER FLAVIUS McCALEB, A.M., Ph.D. (New York : Dodd, Mead, and Company. 1903. Pp. xviii, 309, and index.)

THANKS are due Mr. McCaleb for having conducted such an extensive and minute search for material relating to the Burr conspiracy ; and he must be congratulated upon the rich results that rewarded his efforts. The archives of Mexico and Texas yielded contemporary references to the conspiracy in official Spanish letters. Files of contemporary newspapers in New Orleans and middle Kentucky show what the public knew and how it felt. These, together with Burr maps, private correspondence, and official documents lying hidden and unknown in the department archives at Washington, add a mass of material as considerable in character as in size to all that previous writers upon the subject have had at their disposal. Not only is his knowledge of so much new material a justification in itself for reexamining the old, but it has also afforded him an opportunity to do a public service in restating the whole story with accuracy of detail and with fullness of citation from the new sources not otherwise accessible even to students. But in performing this task Mr. McCaleb has felt compelled, in justice to his own convictions, to propound a new interpretation of the conspiracy which challenges attention. It is original ; is it sound ?

Mr. McCaleb holds that Burr did not commit, nor even conspire to commit treason. The proof is, first, the testimony of prominent Westerners who deny that they ever had any treasonable dealings with him ; secondly, the fact, which the author proceeds to demonstrate, that the West was so loyal to the Union that a conspiracy to sever the Union was preposterous ; and, thirdly, the falsity of the evidence hitherto accepted in support of the whole charge.

The contemporary idea that such a treasonable movement was on foot was due almost wholly to articles published in the *Western World* at Frankfort, Ky. The Frankfort *Palladium* repudiated them at the time, and the editors of the *World* admitted before the Kentucky grand jury that they were false. Nevertheless they traveled over the mountains to the East, where they attracted attention, were copied, and gained a credence for the story they told beyond the power of any denials to coun-